

### **REMARKS**

The Application presently comprises claims 1-34. Claims 18-34 are withdrawn. Claims 1-6 were rejected, and claims 7-18 were objected to but deemed allowable if rewritten so as not to depend from a rejected base claims.

#### **Interview:**

Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended during a telephonic interview on April 3, 2007. In the interview, the Applicants proposed an amendment which would effectively clarify that the nipple cover recited in claims 1-3 is a single piece cover, and therefore would function differently than the cover disclosed by Chen. The Examiner agreed, pending review of the specific language used in the amendment, that such an amendment should overcome the present rejection. It was understood that a further search might be necessary if deemed appropriate by the Examiner.

#### **Rejections:**

Applicants have amended claims 1, 4, and 7. In claims 1 and 4, Applicants have clarified that the nipple cover is a “single piece” cover which has an interior cavity which envelopes the nipple and is movable “via a single action motion.” In other words, only a single piece need be moved in order to select the open or closed positions. This is more convenient than having two halves which might be required to be moved, as one would be required to do in the Chen invention. Furthermore, the shape of any cover necessitated by this claim, and the fact that the interior cavity is maintained intact in the open position, would enable the cover to be used as a handle in the open position. Thus, it is clear that the single piece structure of the claims would not be functionally equivalent to a two piece construction.

Furthermore, with reference to claims 4-6, the same clarification has been made in independent claim 4. Thus, the fact that the single piece cover has an interior cavity which remains intact in the second position enables it to act to cover the second nipple. No combination of cited references either discloses, teaches, or suggests these limitations.

Thus, Applicants submit that claims 1-6 are in condition for allowance.

**Allowable Subject Matter:**

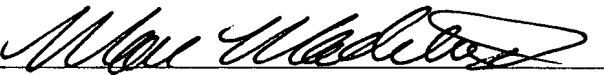
Claims 7-18 were objected to, but indicated as allowable subject matter. Claim 7 has been amended to include the limitations of original claim 4. It is respectfully submitted that claims 7-18 are in condition for allowance.

**Conclusion**

In view of the above election, Applicant requests examination on the merits of the present application. If the Examiner requires further information with respect to this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's attorney at (847) 537-3537 for a telephonic interview.

Respectfully submitted,

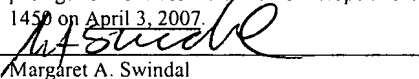
Date: April 3, 2007

By:   
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**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING (37 C.F.R. § 1.8a)**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is, on the date shown below, being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: MS Amendment, Commissioner For Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on April 3, 2007.

  
Margaret A. Swindal